

What is claimed is:

1. A network printing system comprising terminal devices, a server, and printing machines being connected to each other via a network, wherein
 - each of said terminal devices comprises:
 - 5 an image capturing unit which generates image data representing captured subject;
 - and
 - an e-mail transmitter which transmits an e-mail to which the image data generated by said image capturing unit are attached, to said server,
 - said server comprises:
 - 10 an e-mail receiver which receives e-mails transmitted by said terminal devices;
 - a storage unit which stores the image data attached to the e-mails received by said e-mail receiving unit so as to be associated with user ID information;
 - a request receiver which receives request information including the user ID information transmitted by said printing machines;
 - 15 an image transmitter which transmits the image data stored in said storage unit to said printing machines in response to the reception of the request information by said request receiving unit, and
 - each of said printing machines comprises:
 - a transmitting unit which transmits request information including user ID
 - 20 information, to said server;
 - a receiving unit which receives the image data transmitted by said server in response to the request information transmitted by said transmitting unit; and
 - a printing unit which prints the image data received by said receiving unit.
 - 2. The network printing system according to claim 1, wherein
 - 25 said terminal device further comprises:
 - a memory unit which sequentially stores the image data generated by said image capturing unit; and

an image selector which selects arbitrary image data from the image data stored in said memory unit,

said e-mail transmitter transmits an e-mail to which the image data selected by said image selecting unit, to said server.

5 3. The network printing system according to claim 1, wherein

said server further comprises:

a user ID generator which generates ID information of users who sent the e-mails received by said e-mail receiving unit; and

a notice mail transmitter which transmits notice e-mail including the ID information
10 associated to the image data by said storage unit when storing the image data, to said terminal devices, and

said terminal device further comprises:

a notice receiving unit which receives the notice e-mail transmitted by said server;

and

15 a display unit which displays the notice e-mail received by said notice receiving unit.

4. The network printing system according to claim 1, wherein

said terminal device further comprises:

a preview request transmitter which transmits preview request information including
20 the user ID information, to said server;

a preview image receiver which receives the image data transmitted by said server in response to the preview request information transmitted by said preview request transmitting unit; and

a display unit which displays the image data received by said preview image
25 receiving unit,

said server further comprises:

a preview request receiver which receives the preview request information

transmitted by said terminal devices; and

a preview image transmitter which retrieves image data corresponding to the preview request information from said storage unit, and transmits the retrieved image data to said terminal devices in response to the preview request information received by said
5 preview request receiver.

5. The network printing system according to claim 1, wherein
said server further comprises:

a thumbnail image request receiver which receives thumbnail image request information including user ID information transmitted by said printing machines;
10 a thumbnail image retriever which retrieves thumbnail images representing the image data corresponding to the thumbnail image request information received by said thumbnail image request receiver, from said storage unit; and

a thumbnail image transmitter which transmits thumbnail image data retrieved by said thumbnail image retriever, to said printing machine,
15 said printing machine further comprises:
a thumbnail image request transmitter which transmits the thumbnail image request information including the user ID information, to said server;
a thumbnail image receiver which receives thumbnail image data transmitted by said server in response to the thumbnail image request information transmitted by said
20 thumbnail image request transmitter; and

a display unit which displays the thumbnail images in accordance with the thumbnail image data received by said thumbnail image receiver.

6. The network printing system according to claim 1, wherein
said printing machine further comprises:

25 an image storage unit which stores image data received by said receiving unit; and
an image selector which selects arbitrary image data from the image data stored in said image storage unit, and

said printing unit prints the image data selected by said image selector.

7. The network printing system according to claim 1, wherein

said printing machine further comprises a layout setting unit which sets layout information including at least frames to be superimposed on the image data, and

5 said printing unit prints the image data in accordance with the layout set by said layout setting unit.

8. A network printing system comprising terminal devices, a server, and printing machines being connected to each other via a network, wherein

each of said terminal devices generates image data representing captured subject,
10 and transmits an e-mail to which the image data are attached, to said server,

said server stores the image data attached to the e-mail transmitted by said terminal device while associating the image data with ID information of the user who sent the e-mail concerned, and retrieves image data corresponding to request information from said printing machine to transmit the retrieved image data to said printing machine
15 concerned in response to reception of the request information including the user ID information, and

each of said printing machines transmits request information including user ID information to said server, and prints the image data transmitted by said server in response to the request information transmitted by said printing machine concerned.

20 9. A server being connected to terminal devices and printing machines via network, comprising:

an e-mail receiver which receives e-mail to which image data are attached, transmitted by said terminal devices;

a storage unit which stores image data attached to the e-mails received by said
25 e-mail receiver while associating the image data with ID information of the users who sent the e-mails concerned;

a request receiver which receives request information including user ID information,

from said printing machines; and

an image transmitter which transmits the image data corresponding to the request information received by said request receiver, to said printing machine concerned.

10. A printing machine being connected to terminal devices and a server via a
5 network, comprising:

a transmitter which transmits request information including user ID information to said server which stores image data transmitted by said terminal devices being associated with the user ID information;

a receiver which receives the image data corresponding to the user represented by
10 the user ID information included in the request information transmitted by said transmitter; and

a printing unit which prints the image data received by said receiver.

11. A network printing system comprising terminal devices, a server, and printing machines being connected to each other via a network, wherein

15 each of said terminal devices comprises:

an image capturing unit which captures subjects and generates image data representing the captured subjects;

an e-mail receiver which receives e-mails including address information of said server, from said printing machines; and

20 a transmitter which accesses said server indicated by the address information included in the e-mail received by said e-mail receiver to transmit the image data generated by said image capturing unit to said server concerned,

said server comprises:

an image receiver which receives the image data from said terminal devices in
25 response to the access by said terminal device with designating address;

a storage unit which stores the image data received by said image receiver at the designated address; and

an image transmitter which transmits the designated image data in said storage unit, to said printing machine in response to the access by said printing machine concerned with designating the address, and

each of said printing machines comprises:

5 an e-mail transmitter which transmits an e-mail including address information of said server, to said terminal device;

a determiner which determines whether the image data are stored at the address of the server designated by the e-mail transmitted by said e-mail transmitter;

a receiver which accesses said server with designating the address to receive image
10 data transmitted by said server in response to the access, in a case where said determiner determines that the image data are stored; and

a printing unit which prints image data received by said receiver.

12. The network printing system according to claim 11, wherein
said terminal device further comprises:

15 a memory unit which sequentially stores the image data generated by said image capturing unit; and

an image retriever which retrieves image data corresponding arbitrary date of capturing, from said memory unit,

said e-mail receiver receives an e-mail including address information of said server
20 and date information representing designated date,

said image retriever retrieves the image data from said memory unit in accordance with the date information included in the e-mail received by said e-mail receiver, and

said image transmitter transmits the image data retrieved by said image retriever, to said printing machine.

25 13. The network printing system according to claim 11, wherein

said terminal device further comprises a memory unit which stores DPOF information which designates at least image data to be printed, while sequentially storing

the image data generated by said image capturing unit, and

said image transmitter transmits the image data designated by the DPOF information stored in said memory unit, in response to the e-mail reception by said e-mail receiver.

14. A network printing system comprising terminal devices, a server, and printing
5 machines being connected to each other via a network, wherein

each of said terminal devices accesses said server with designating address included in an e-mail transmitted by said printing machine, and transmits image data representing captured subject to said server,

said server stores the image data transferred from said terminal device at designated
10 address of a predetermined storage, in response to access by said terminal device with designating the address, and transmits the designated image data of the image data stored in said storage, in response to the access by said printing machine with designating address, and

each of said printing machines transmits an e-mail including the address of said
15 server to said terminal device, determines existence of the image data which are stored at the address of said server in response to the e-mail transmitted by said printing machine concerned, accesses said server with designating the address when it is determined that the image data exist, and prints the image data which are transmitted by said server as response.

20 15. A server being connected to terminal devices and printing machines via a network, comprising:

an image receiver which receives image data transmitted by said terminal device, in response to the access by said terminal device with designating address;

a storage unit which stores the image data received by said image receiver at the
25 designated address; and

an image transmitter which transmits the designated image data of the image data in said storage unit in response to the access by said terminal device with address

designation, to said printing machine in order to print the image data.

16. A printing machine being connected to terminal devices and a server via a network, comprising:

an e-mail transmitter which transmits an e-mail including address information of
5 said server to said terminal device;

a determiner which determines existence of the image data which are transmitted by said terminal device to be stored at address of said server in response to the e-mail transmitted by said e-mail transmitter;

a receiver which accesses said server with designating the address to receive the
10 image data transmitted by said server in response to the access, when said determiner determines existence of the image data; and

a printing unit which prints the image data received by said receiver.

17. A printing method for a system having terminal devices, a server, and printing machines being connected to each other via a network, comprising the steps of:

15 transferring an e-mail with attaching image data captured by said terminal device from said terminal device to said server;

storing the image data attached to the transferred e-mail while associating the image data concerned with ID information of the user who sent the e-mail, in a storage of said server;

20 transferring request information including the user ID information from said printing machine to said server;

transferring requested image data in the image data stored in said storage of said server, from said server to said printing machine in response to the transferred request information; and

25 printing the transferred image data by said printing machine.

18. A printing method for a system having terminal devices, a server, and printing machines being connected to each other via a network, comprising the steps of:

receiving an e-mail including address information of said server, being transferred from said printing machine to said terminal device;

accessing said server by said terminal device with designating the address included in the received e-mail, and transferring the image data captured by said terminal device
5 from said terminal device to said server;

storing the transferred image data at the designated address in a storage of said server;

transferring designated image data of the image data stored in said storage of said server to said printing machine in response to accessing said server by said printing
10 machine with address designation; and

printing the transferred image data by said printing machine.

19. A printing method for a printing machine being connected to terminal devices and a server via a network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting request information including user ID information to said server which
15 stores image data transferred from said terminal device being associated with the user ID information;

receiving image data corresponding to the user designated by the user ID information in the transmitted request information; and

printing the received image data.

20 20. A printing method for a printing machine being connected to terminal devices and a server via a network, comprising the steps of:

transmitting an e-mail including address information of said server, to said terminal device;

determining whether the image data transferred from said terminal device to said
25 server in response to the transmitted e-mail exists at designated address in said server or not;

accessing said server with designating address in a case where it is determined that

the image data concerned exist, to receive image data transferred from said server in response to the access; and

printing the received image data.